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OPI REPORT

Office of Public
Instruction
Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

AUGUST 1987

Energy Education Mini-Grants for Schools

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) encourages teachers to develop innovative energy projects for classroom use by taking advantage of its Energy Education Mini-Grant Program, which provides financial assistance for classroom projects.

DNRC will award up to a maximum of $500 to elementary and secondary teachers undertaking various energy education activities. A total of $5,000 is available, and the agency expects to fund between ten and 15 projects for the upcoming school year.

The deadline for submitting proposals is October 31. Grants will be awarded by January 1, 1988, for projects to be completed by June 15, 1988. Those receiving mini-grants will be asked to give a brief final report. DNRC will publicize completed projects and distribute the reports to other Montana schools.

For application information, contact Peggy Nelson, DNRC, 1520 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 (444-6697).

Boiler Operator License Requirements

State boiler inspectors frequently find that boilers are being tended by unlicensed operators, a practice which is in direct violation of Montana laws relating to industrial safety.

MCA 50-74-301 states that persons operating boilers must hold the proper grade of license. Sections 50-74-315 and -316 state that it is unlawful for anyone to operate a boiler without a license or to employ any person not duly licensed to operate boilers.

A person may be licensed to operate boilers if he/she has met the experience qualifications, has passed the age of 18, and has been found to be competent by examination to perform the duties of a boiler operator.

If you have concerns about such a license or need license application forms, contact the Safety Bureau of the Division of Workers' Compensation, 5 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620 (444-6401).

Bus Safety Week and Poster Contest

Start off your school year with a celebration of National School Bus Safety Week, September 20-26, and a student poster contest to promote school bus safety.

Posters in any medium (except metal, glass, plastic, or collage) may be submitted on the theme "Be Smart, Be Seen" in divisions for grades K-3 and 4-6. Entries must be original, correct in safety concept, and the exclusive work, idea, and execution of the student. Posters should be 12x18 inches with a one-inch space left at the bottom for an entry blank.

The Montana Association of Pupil Transportation will award cash prizes to the first three place winners, and the state winner will go on to a national competition.

Information sheets and official entry blanks may be obtained from your County Superintendent of Schools or from Jean Pfeffer, Transportation Coordinator, OPI, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620. The deadline for entries is October 17.

Do You Have A Teacher of the Year?

Since September 30 is the deadline for applications for the 1988 Montana Teacher of the Year, you should be thinking about nominating a teacher for the honor.

The Teacher of the Year is not "the best" teacher in the state; rather she/he is an exemplary and articulate representative of the many outstanding teachers in Montana, a spokesperson and advocate of education, who becomes a candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

Schools, groups, or individuals may make a nomination. Eligible are teachers K-12 who plan to remain in an active teaching status. Nominations should be made without discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap.

Information and official candidate portfolios are available now. The latter must be used to qualify a nominee. Contact Ed Eschler, OPI, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620.

September 16: Citizenship Day

Plan now for Citizenship Day, September 16, a nationwide celebration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution and other tributes to democracy.

On this day, every school in America has been asked to hold a teach-in on the Constitution. Schools were sent a packet of education materials by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution to guide lesson plans and activities. Red, white, and blue dress is suggested, and students are asked to participate in a nationwide Pledge of Allegiance at 1:00 EDT (11:00 am Montana time) and a reading of the Preamble to the Constitution. For high school students, there is an ABC special on the Constitution (check local TV listings). Add these special events to your own citizenship education activities, and the celebration will be all the more meaningful.

Essay Contest Honors Women and Constitution

The National Organization of Women is sponsoring a national essay contest to celebrate the Constitution Bicentennial. Eligible are high school, college, and continuing

education students.

The contest gives all students an opportunity to review the rich history of women fighting for equality. Entries will be judged for originality, clarity, creativity, and understanding of the equality issue. Scholarships starting at $1,000 will be awarded. The deadline is September 30.

For details on topic and format, contact the NOW Foundation, 1401 New York Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 347-2279.

Teacher Evaluation Workshop

September 22 is the date of the "Teacher Evaluation: Five Keys to Growth" conference, a practical workshop that focuses on improving teacher performance through the use of an effective growth-producing teacher evaluation program and a cooperative staff effort. Participants will share successful techniques for professional growth through staff development, supervision, and evaluation.

The conference will be held at the Grantree Inn in Bozeman. Registrations must be postmarked no later than September 15. The fee is $15. Contact the Department of Educational Services, Office of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, MT 59620.

CALENDAR

Aug. 9-14--Global Education Seminar, Libby (George Gerard, 293-6204)

Aug. 11-13--School Food Service Training Conference, Great Falls (Gary Watt, OPI, 444-2505)

Aug. 18-22, Sept. 8-26--One-Day Advanced Driver Education Workshops, Lewistown (Curt Hahn, OPI, 444-4432)

Sept. 9-11--Chapter 1 Fall Workshop, Billings (Nancy Coopersmith, OPI, 444-4420)

Sept. 14-15--Board of Public Education, Helena (Claudette Morton, 444-6576)

Sept. 16--National Citizenship Day

MISSING CHILDREN INFORMATION

The following is the State Dept. of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (age 17 and under). For details on the Missing Children Program, call Bill Erwin, Dept. of Justice, Helena, 444-3625. (PD=Police Dept.; SO=Sheriff's Office; TP=Tribal Police). If you are uncertain about the status of a student who is not on this list, call the Dept. of Justice.

NAME	SEX	RACE	DOB	AGE	HT/WT	HAIR	EYES	STATION
Best, Helen D.	F	W	013172	14	5'8"/130	BLN	BLU	Hardin SO
Coburn, Elaine	F	W	082271	15	5'6"/135	BRO	BRO	Billings PD
Dwyer, Kristin	F	W	111670	17	5'6"/115	BLN	HZL	Yellowstone Co SO
Fowler, Grady E.	M	W	031371	16	5'3"/110	BRO	BLU	Dept. of Justice
Ginevicz, Megan	F	W	011278	8	2'8"/25	BLN	GRN	Polson SO
Innocci, Barbara	F	W	121170	16	5'4"/143	BRO	BRO	Billings SO
Johnston, Janice	F	W	011171	15	5'3"/118	BLN	xx	Polson SO
McFadden, Shaun P.	M	W	102081	6	3'9"/37	BLN	BLU	Billings PD
Schulze, Virginia	F	W	101470	16	5'5"/140	RED	BRO	Flathead Co SO

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